

Message Text

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SUBJ: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE 10 FEBRUARY

1. FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC)
MONDAY AFTERNOON AGREED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO PROPOSAL OF
CHAIRMAN WYZNER (POLAND) THAT LSC DEVOTE APPROXIMATELY
ONE WEEK EACH TO MOON TREATY, DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES
(DBS), AND REMOTE SENSING, IN THAT ORDER, WITH WORKING GROUPS
FOR EACH TOPIC. MEETINGS WOULD START EACH DAY WITH
PLENARY SESSION TO HEAR GENERAL STATEMENTS, FOLLOWING WHICH
SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD CONVERT TO WORKING GROUPS. ONLY
GENERAL STATEMENT MONDAY WAS BY SOV DEL, WHICH REVIEWED
RECENT SOVIET SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE
OF DETENTE, AND REHEARSED GENERAL SOVIET POSITION ON MAIN
AGENDA ITEMS. ONLY ITEM OF NOTE IN SOVIET STATEMENT WAS
ASSERTION THAT PROGRESS FORESEEABLE IN NEAR FUTURE ON
EXPLOITING MOON RESOURCES DOES NOT JUSTIFY A DETAILED
LEGAL REGIME. ANY LEGAL PROVISIONS DRAFTED NOW WOULD
BE OF NO PRACTICAL VALUE AND MIGHT EVEN BE REGRESSIVE.

2. USDEL PLANS MAKE GENERAL STATEMENT IN PLENARY FEB. 11
SUMMARIZING U.S. ACTIVITIES IN OUTER SPACE SINCE LAST
SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION.

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3. AT US-SOVIET BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN MORNING,
SOVIETS INDICATED FOLLOWING POSITION:

A) MOON TREATY - SOVIETS DESIRE CONCLUDE TREATY
THIS YEAR BUT DO NOT YET WISH TO CARRY BURDEN ALONE.
SOVIETS BELIEVE PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED ON NATURAL
RESOURCES BASED ON US COUNTER DRAFT ON ART. X(STATE
262374;), CANNOT ACCEPT PRIOR NOTIFICATION,
BUT WOULD ACCEPT US POSITION THAT TREATY COVER
"MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES." IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET
REQUEST FOR US ACTIVE LEAD IN NEGOTIATIONS, USDEL EXPRESSED
OUR INTEREST IN TREATY BUT WARNED OF DANGER OF IMPRESSION
OF SUPER-POWER COLLUSION AND SUGGESTED WE FIRST SOUND OUT
POSITION OF OTHER KEY DELS.

B) DBS - SOVIETS FORESEE CONTINUING WORK ON PRINCIPLES.
USDEL AGREED BUT MENTIONED THAT THORNY QUESTION OF
PRIOR CONSENT MAY PREVENT ANY EARLY AGREEMENT.

C) REMOTE SENSING - SOVIETS SAID THEIR POSITION
WILL BE BASED ON SOVIET-FRENCH DRAFT TREATY. US DEL
SAID THAT CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES OBVIOUSLY EXIST AMONG
MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNING THE BASIC
CONCEPTS INVOLVED, AND THAT THE USG BELIEVES THAT MANY
ISSUES SHOULD BE FURTHER STUDIED BEFORE ANY DRAFTING
IS ATTEMPTED. USDEL WILL PUT FORWARD A COMPREHENSIVE
STATEMENT OF USG POSITION AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, AND
WE BELIEVE THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL WISH TO CONSIDER THOSE
AND ANY OTHER VIEWS EXPRESSED.

D) BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS - THE SOVIET REPRESENTA-
TIVE (PIRADOV) AGAIN EXPRESSLY REQUESTED THAT THE
US AND USSR ESTABLISH A FORMAT FOR ANNUAL BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS AMONG POLITICAL AND LEGAL EXPERTS AS WE
HAVE ALREADY DONE AMONG OUR SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL
EXPERTS. PIRADOV POINTED OUT INADEQUACY OF MEETING
ONLY AT THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT
MORE CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS COULD BE EFFECTED, FOR EXAMPLE,
BY MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR AND DISCUSSING
OUR RESPECTIVE VIEWS OF LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENTS. SUCH
CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD ON AN ALTERNATING BASIS
IN THE US AND THE USSR. USDEL EXPRESSED OUR STRONG
CONTINUING DESIRE FOR A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE SOVIET DEL, AND PROMISED TO EXAMINE THE DESIRABILITY
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OF INSTITUTIONALIZING OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATION ON THE
LEGAL AND POLITICAL LEVELS.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE WILL RESUME TUESDAY AM TO BEGIN
DISCUSSION OF THE MOON TREATY AND TO HEAR OTHER
GENERAL STATEMENTS.
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